

CONTINGENT EXTENSION REQUEST

If this communication is filed after the shortened statutory time period had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

AMENDMENTS

If checked, amendment(s) to the specification and/or claims are submitted herewith.

1. Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 6 and 9 and add new claims 12 and 13 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(i) as set forth in the "clean" version attached hereto as Appendix A. Entry is respectfully requested. A version with markings to show the changes made pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(ii) is attached hereto as Appendix B.

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Birkelund et al. in view of Carroll. Carroll was cited as disclosing the steel rod of the independent claims.

In response, apparatus claim 1 and method claim 6 have been amended to recite "said at least one substantially solid steel rod being shaped and sized for absorbing tensile loading on said umbilical." As mentioned for example at page 5, lines 22-23, the solid steel rods of the invention absorb tensile stress, unlike the steel structures cited by the Examiner in the prior art.

As amended, claims 1 and 6 and their dependent claims are patentably distinguishable from the cited art. The invention is directed to an umbilical including substantially solid steel rods

